

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol, ~~a pentaerythritol oligomer, or mixtures thereof,~~ wherein the fatty acid is a mixture containing from about 40% to about 50% by weight of a C₁₆ fatty acid and from about 45% to about 55% by weight of a C₁₈ fatty acid, and wherein the said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid-containing component acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C.

4. (Currently amended) A fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol, ~~a pentaerythritol oligomer, or mixtures thereof,~~ wherein the fatty acid has 6 to 22 carbon atoms, and wherein the said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid-containing component acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C, with a percentage content of (a) from about 10% to about 25% by weight monoesters, (b) from about 25% to about 40% by weight diesters, and (c) from about 30% to about 45% by weight triesters.

5. (Currently amended) A fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol, ~~a pentaerythritol oligomer, or mixtures thereof,~~ wherein the fatty acid has 6 to 22 carbon atoms, and wherein the said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid-containing component acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C, with a percentage content of (a) from about 12% to about 19% by weight monoesters, (b) from about 25% to about 35% by weight diesters, (c) from about 30% to about 40% by weight triesters, and (d) from about 6 to about 11% by weight tetraesters.

6-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical composition comprising an ester mixture formed by esterification of pentaerythritol, ~~a pentaerythritol oligomer, or mixtures thereof~~ with at least one C₆₋₂₂ fatty acid[[s]], wherein the said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid-~~containing~~ component acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C.

12. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 11, wherein the said ester mixture comprises (a) from about 5 to about 35% by weight monoesters, (b) from about 20 to about 50% by weight diesters, and (c) from about 25 to about 50% by weight triesters.

13. (Currently amended) The composition according to Claim 11, wherein the said C₆₋₂₂ fatty acid is present as a mixture and comprises from about 40% to about 50% by weight of a C₁₆ fatty acid and from about 45% to about 55% by weight of a C₁₈ fatty acid.

14. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, wherein the said ester mixture is present in a quantity of from about 0.1% to about 20% by weight.

15. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising a wax component.

16. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 15, wherein the said wax component is selected from the group consisting of C₁₂₋₂₄ fatty alcohols, ~~and~~ C₁₂₋₂₄ partial glycerides and mixtures thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising at least one nonionic surfactant.

18. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 17, wherein ~~the~~ said nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkyl and alkenyl oligoglycosides.

19. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, further comprising at least one oil component which is liquid at 25°C.

20. (Currently amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 11, comprising:

- (a) from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of ~~the~~ said ester mixture;
- (b) from about 1% to about 25% by weight of at least one oil component which is liquid at 25°C;
- (c) from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a wax component selected from the group consisting of C₁₂₋₂₄ fatty alcohols, [[a]] C₁₂₋₁₄ partial glycerides, and mixtures thereof;
- (d) from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of a C₈₋₂₄ alkyl oligoglucoside; and
- (e) water.

21. (Currently amended) A fatty acid ester mixture of pentaerythritol, wherein the fatty acid contains 6 to 22 carbon atoms and is predominantly unbranched, and wherein said ester mixture contains less than 0.3% by weight of esters containing C₁₇ fatty acid-containing component acyl groups, and has a melting point of at least 30°C.

22. (New) The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 4 wherein said fatty acid comprises a mixture of C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids.

23. (New) The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 5 wherein said fatty acid comprises a mixture of C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids.

24. (New) The fatty acid ester mixture of claim 21 wherein said fatty acid comprises a mixture of C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids.